

NSC BRIEFING

27 May 1954

CURRENT CHINESE COMMUNIST CAMPAIGN  
IN THE TACHENS AREA

- I. Communists previous operations  
against Tachens.
  - A. Occupied 13 of these islands  
in May-June 1953.
- II. Communists active again in this area  
since 15 May.
  - A. Occupied four or five within  
20 miles of <sup>2<sup>nd</sup> China occupied</sup> Tachens.
  - B. Naval and air activity by  
both sides on larger scale.
  - C. Communist troop concentrations  
in Chekiang, massing of 21  
LST's at Shanghai, 1,000  
Communist junks within 35  
miles of Tachens, intensified  
Communist air reconnaissance.

III. Communist strength enough to take

Tachens at any time:

- A. 250,000 to 320,000 troops;  
air divisions and substantial  
naval strength.

IV. Nationalist forces consist of:

- A. 10,000 regular troops plus  
5,000 guerrillas.
- B. Two DE's and about 10 patrol  
craft.
- C. Air support from Formosa.
- D. Taipei says it will reinforce  
Tachens if invasion comes.

V. Nationalist response varied:

- A. Tachen Island command thinks  
it can hold.
- B. Early statements from Taipei  
alarmist, later ones more calm.

C. ~~Taipei has not yet received~~  
*On* *Chunats*  
~~reply to its~~ 6 April requested  
that US 7th Fleet protection  
be extended to all Nationalist-  
held off-shore islands.

D. Nationalists may remove good  
Division from Tachens if US  
protection not extended.

VI. Tachens valuable to Nationalists for:

- A. Gathering intelligence;
- B. Warning of Communist attacks  
on Formosa;
- C. Limited offensive base.